41. (Amended) The method of claim [36] __38__ further comprising selectively copying reconciled information from the at least one intermediate data set into the first data set and selectively copying reconciled information from the at least one intermediate data set into the second data set.

42. (Amended) The method of claim [39] __41__ wherein the reconciling step comprises selectively copying information from the first data set into the at least one intermediate data set and selectively copying information from the second data set into the at least one intermediate data set.

Remarks

Status of application:

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowance for claims 3-13 and 15-42 and allowable subject matter for claims 1, 2, and 14, subject to overcoming the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's renumbering of claims to correct Applicant's misnumbering of claims that were added in the (Supplemental) Preliminary Amendment that Applicants mailed on 12/18/98. Applicants apologize for the inconvenience caused by Applicants' earlier misnumbering. By the present amendment, claims 1, 2, and 14 are amended for addressing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112; claims 18-22, 24-37, and 39-42 are amended to ensure correct claim dependencies for all renumbered claims; and claims 5 and 8 are amended to remove editing informalities. Examination and consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 2, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. Applicants thank the Examiner for careful review of the claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 14 to address these rejections. In particular, claims 1 and 14 have

been amended for improved clarity with regard to antecedent support, and claim 2 has been amended to use phrasing suggested by the Examiner ("said first and second") and to use phrasing ("data set structure") similar to that used in other claims which the Examiner has allowed.

Renumbered claims

Applicants have amended claims 18-22, 24-37, and 39-42 to ensure correct claim dependencies, as intended by Applicants, for all claims that were renumbered by the Examiner per the Office Action dated May 27, 1999. Applicants surmise that the Examiner may have already made some, but perhaps not all, of these amendments during the Examiner's renumbering of claims per the Office Action dated May 27, 1999.

Editing Informalities

Applicants have amended claim 5 to remove an editing informality.

In view of the amendment to the claims, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Hence, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue at an early date. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (831) 461-5962.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 24, 1999

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